

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /047 W

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P 130530Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8914

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 3474

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT BM

SUBJ: AP STORY ON RANGOON SITUATION

REF: STATE 272686

1. EMBOFF WHOM AP REACHED BY PHONE FROM NEW YORK DID NOT RPT NOT COMMENT ON CURRENT SITUATION AND DID NOT RPT NOT USE PHRASE "ACTING WITH A VERY HEAVY HAND." HE DID SUPPLY SOME INFORMATION, ON BACKGROUND AND NOT RPT NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION TO EMBASSY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR STANDARD PRACTICE OF ASSISTING JOURNALISTS WITH SUCH BACKGROUND INFORMATION. AP CORRESPONDENT ULEVICH, WHO ARRIVED RANGOON AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 12, HAS APOLOGIZED FOR AP NEW YORK'S QUOTING EMBOFF IN DISREGARD OF ACCEPTED JOURNALISTIC CONVENTION.

2. WE HAVE NO PLANS TO COMMENT ON SITUATION, BUT WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO RENDER OUR USUAL ASSISTANCE TO VISITING JOURNALISTS.

3. IF QUERIED FURTHER, SUGGEST DEPT SPOKESMAN DECEMBER 13 STATE THAT NO VIOLENCE HAS BEEN DIRECTED AT AMERICANS OR OTHER FOREIGNERS AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO KNOWN INJURIES TO AMERICANS OR DAMAGE TO AMERICAN PROPERTY. SPOKESMAN MIGHT ALSO NOTE THAT THE SITUATION HAS BEEN REPORTED BY EMBASSY IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL, AND THAT ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING THREATS TO AMERICAN LIVES OR PROPERTY WILL OF COURSE ALSO BE REPORTED.

LACEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974RANGOO03474
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740362-0170
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741236/aaaabexw.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 STATE 272686
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AP STORY ON RANGOON SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005